

Student gov't travel costs raise questions

Trips to Massachusetts, Texas, Oregon exceed \$12,000 travel allocation

By Paul Converse
Whalesong Reporter

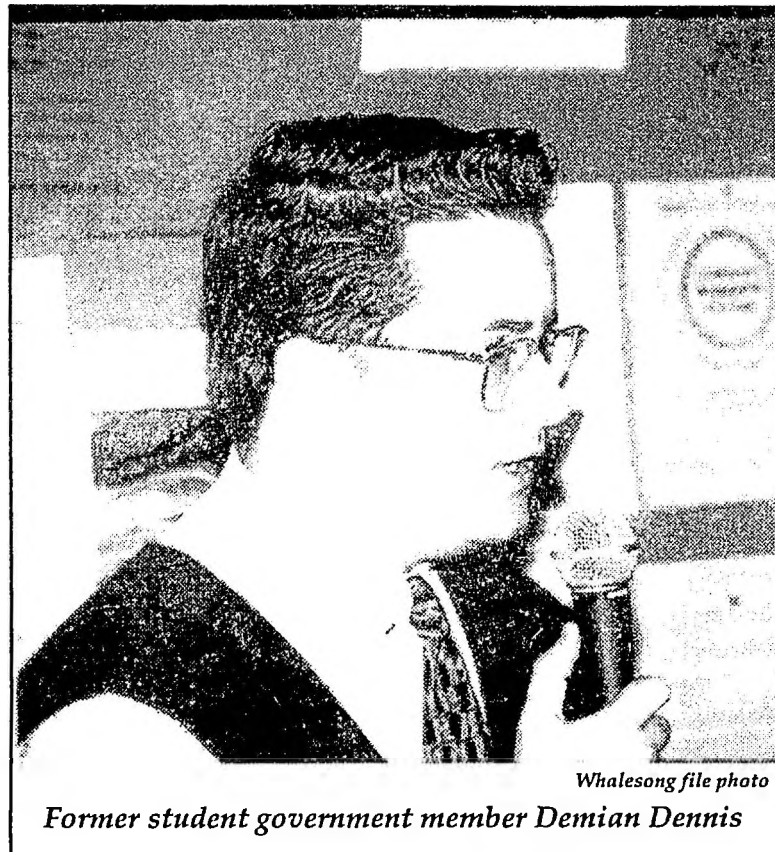
What if the UAS student government put on an event and no one came? That scenario almost occurred recently, when only one person attended a student government workshop put on for both students and student government members. Presented by three student representatives to share the knowledge they gained while attending conferences in Boston and Texas earlier this spring, the April 5 workshop had an audience of one and was marred by a lack of advertising, locked doors, and the resignation of Rep. Demian Dennis. In addition, the workshop and associated travel costs have highlighted issues such as student government's use of funds and interaction with students.

According to Rep. Kelli Wood, who wrote one of two bills funding recent travel to national conferences, the workshop was designed as a sort of "payback" to students by the representatives who traveled to the Lower-48 conferences in February and March. Reps. Demian Dennis, Rosie Gilbert, Autumn Lowrey and Chris Tolvo were required to share the knowledge they gained with students and other student government members in return for receiving approximately \$4,000 of travel and conference funding from student government.

In early April, student government calendars posted around campus announced that there would be a "Student Government Leadership Conference" in the Maurant conference room from 9:30 to 12:30 on Saturday April 5. The student government conference, usually referred to as "the workshop" by student leaders, was put on to meet the requirements of the travel legislation. However, at 9:30 a.m. on April 5, all the doors to the Maurant Building were locked.

In fact, they remained locked until nearly 10 a.m. Entrance into the building could only be gained by walking around to the back of the building and pounding on student government's office window. Rep. Demian Dennis would walk forward and open the main door—but after letting anyone into the building, the doors were locked shut again. Dennis explained that the student government calendar was incorrect and that the workshop was not supposed to begin until 10 a.m. He did not, however, explain why the doors remained locked until other representatives arrived, approximately 10 minutes before the workshop began.

The locked doors may have been one reason participation was low, as no students who were not members of student government attended. Although student govern-



Former student government member Demian Dennis

ment members were required to participate in the workshop, only Rep. Kelli Wood did. By doing so, she became the lone audience member. Additionally, because the workshop was scheduled at a time when Rep. Chris Tolvo had class, he was unable to make his presentation. President Shawn Paul could not attend because he was sick; Vice President Stephanie McGee had been called out of town; Rep. Pat Cunningham went kayaking; Rep. Crystal Huskey was assisting Chris Tolvo with his class (Tolvo needed someone to lift objects for him as he was recovering from appendicitis surgery), and Rep. Sheila Martin had to fill in for an ill co-worker.

After waiting until several minutes after 10 a.m. and hoping for more people to show up, the presenters—Dennis, Gilbert and Lowrey—decided to move the workshop outside in order to enjoy the sunny weather.

Rep. Rosie Gilbert, who had attended the Conference on Student Government Associations: "Power of Individualism" conference at College Station, Texas, was the first to present. She spoke about lobbying, giving the audience and the other presenters suggestions on how to lobby government officials more effectively.

Among the tips she made were to determine who you Reynolds

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At a glance: UAS student government travel costs

Aug. 14-18, 1996. Valdez, Alaska. Board of Regents and Coalition meetings. Pres. Shawn Paul & Rep. Marsha Thomason.....	\$1935.36
Sept. 25-29, 1996. Fairbanks, Alaska. Coalition meeting. Pres. Paul & V. Pres. Stephanie McGee.....	\$2057.61
Nov. 15-17, 1996. Portland, Ore. Northwest Student Leadership Conference. Pres. Paul, V. Pres. McGee & Rep. Rosie Gilbert....	\$1684.53
Nov. 20-25, 1996. Anchorage, Alaska. Board of Regents and Coalition meetings Pres. Paul & Reps. Cathy Johnson & Kelli Wood..	\$2,834.03
Feb. 22-25, 1997. College Station, Texas. Conference on Student Government Associations Reps. Gilbert & Autumn Lowrey.....	\$1,886.10
Feb. 26-Mar. 2, 1997. Boston, Mass. Nat'l Conference on the Advancement of Student Diversity Reps. Demian Dennis & Chris Tolvo.....	\$2,067.82
Total.....	\$12,465.45

At a Jan. 24 assembly meeting, Rep. Demian Dennis said, "For the record, because we have to consider all travel and we do have the Board of Regents trip in June. I have almost been on here a year and am extremely disappointed in the feedback in general that we as a body have received from everyone that attended Board of Regents meetings, and I'm not sure what kind of return we've gotten on that investment over-all for the entire year."

Pres. Shawn Paul, said in a recent interview that he thought attending the regents meetings had been very worthwhile. Representatives who attend, he said, always give testimony to the board. Although the testimonies are limited to three minutes, Paul said that student government members also talk with the regents informally during breaks and lunches. Much of the effort in the last several years, he said, "has been spent on the non-discrimination clause." Additionally, he explained that the student leaders who attend the regents meetings have made a large effort to negotiate tuition.

UA regents approve technology fee

Students to pay \$5 per credit up to \$60 per semester to support tech upgrades

By Wayne Saucier
Whalesong Reporter

A \$5 per credit technology fee has been approved by the UA Board of Regents for the Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau campuses. The fee will not exceed \$60 per student per semester, and will be used to fund local technology upgrades.

UA Vice President for Finance and Planning David Creamer presented the concept to the board at its February meeting.

"These needs are not going to be resolved with a single capital request," he said. "You need a continuing source, and I think that's where the fee fits into the strategy."

Each chancellor, director or president will ensure that students are involved in the decision-making process related to the use of the revenue at each campus. This was a key part of the plan, originally designed by the Teaching and Learning Technology Roundtable (TLTR) on the UAS Juneau campus.

"It's not something where you're paying a fee, and the money gets turned over to somebody else, and you won't know what happened to it," said Sherry Taber, director of Library, Computing and Media Services, and a member of TLTR. Students will be directly involved in the spending process.

The fee is designed to address more than simple computer upgrades. The fee

will address other technology needs as well, such as library workstation upgrades, electronic full-text journal subscriptions, CD-ROM reference materials, and other needs that arise.

A fear that implementing a technology fee would result in changes in technology allocations from the general fund proved unheeded.

"The vice president for finance and planning or his designees will immediately identify and keep segregated, campus by campus, the technology funds already in the budget," the board decided.

Inequalities in enrollments at the three campuses was taken into account as well. Therefore the fee will remain at the campus at which it was collected.

Although the fee was approved only for the three major campuses, UA President Jerome Komisar was authorized to approve the fee for any of the extended sites if requested by a campus director.

Student leaders on the UAS Juneau campus reacted favorably to the fee concept. Student Body President Shawn Paul called the fee "a plan to bring UAS-JC into the 21st century."

Student Body Vice President Stephanie McGee also approved, but was concerned about how the revenue would be spent. "Technology is an important enough aspect of education today," she said, "but I want to be involved in the spending process."

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Editor's Corner

Free at last ...



Annette Nelson-Wright
Whalesong Editor

What I had initially planned for this column was yet another dissertation from the liberal left on one of but many social injustices, however since this is the last issue and thus my last column, (I can hear some of you sighing with relief), there is a much more important issue that must be addressed. That would be those people I owe an enormous amount of thanks, all of whom deserve to be recognized in the paper, many of whom are so modest they will deny that they did anything worthy of thanks, yet without whom being Editor would have been either impossible, much more stressful, or at the very least much less entertaining.

It will be surprising to many of you that I did not set out to "get" anyone and in fact a majority of the stories that we did come from either student, faculty, staff or administration suggestions. To those individuals who brought issues to the attention of the Whalesong, thank you. Your getting involved and being concerned did make a difference, and was greatly appreciated.

This newspaper has been a team effort, and if I may extend the sports metaphor, although some are no longer playing, your efforts were appreciated. Andrea Peria for your layout expertise, Mike Bellevue and Lola Foss for bringing in ad revenues, Ernestine Hayes, Crystal Huskey, Wayne Saucier and Paul Converse (the man who needs no

friends), your stories were great and I could always depend on you. Dan Coleman and Wayne Saucier your photos broke up many blocks of text, and I'm sure the readers as well are thankful. Larry Hurlock and Mark Luchini, Webmasters, I have no idea how you do that voodoo that you do so well, but you do, and I thank you.

Kirk McAllister, you are a man of many talents. Your knowledge and patience are unparalleled, and I feel as though I have prepared you well for the task of being a parent to a toddler. You never failed to bring levity to class with your creative analogies, ("that guy is an idiot looking for a village"), and that dance thing with the coconut shells and the flippers. You found solutions to perplexing challenges that always seemed to be popping up when they were least expected. You were always available and willing to assist, and without exception you had a smile and a positive attitude in a comforting, nurturing and calming environment. Stuart Smalley has nothing on you. You are a gem and I was fortunate and thankful to have you as an advisor. (The "W" drop cap is for you big-guy.)

Scott Foster, the man, the myth, the legend. So few people are aware of what an extraordinary person you are and the breadth and depth of knowledge and experience you possess. Your continued inquiry of how the

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OPINION: Race card often boxes me into a corner

By Sara Goo
The Minnesota Daily
University of Minnesota

I recently accompanied my 6-year-old sister on her birthday trip to see "Pocahontas on Ice" with her two little blonde friends. My sister loves to think that she looks like Pocahontas because she has long dark hair and tan skin.

While in the car, one of her friends said to her, "Emily, you have brown skin." In a thoughtful, very matter-of-fact manner, she replied, "Yeah, I know. But it's not from the sun because I'm Hawaiian and I'm Chinese."

Ah, if only we all could explain race this easily.

When faced with a box to check, I never know which group I belong to. I've filled out probably hundreds of college applications, scholarship applications and even credit card surveys that demand me to make a choice. Please check your racial/ethnic background.

You see, I'm a person of many races. When people ask me about my background, I often respond that I'm something of a racial mutt.

My mother has fair skin, blondish-brown hair and a square Irish face. She has soft features and an English nose. Her father was from Iowa, but her ancestors are from England, Ireland and the Netherlands. Oh, and she thinks she's Swedish.

My father chuckles whenever my mom talks about her ancestors. His background is a little easier to trace, considering his was the first generation to be born on "the mainland," as the Hawaiians say. My father's mother has tan skin, dark hair and slender fingers. She spent her childhood slicing pineapples and sugarcane for Hawaiian food manufacturers. My father's father, who also grew up in Hawaii, is 100 percent Chinese.

So how am I supposed to fit all of this into one box? Don't the makers of these surveys know they create race anxiety for people like me? I enter some sort of schizophrenic state when I look over the choices.

It's funny how inconsistently I answer these types of surveys. I sometimes pick

whichever one I haven't picked for a while. But I do have a few little rules to which I adhere.

If I'm given broad choices, I'll go with "Asian," or the more obscure "Pacific Islander." If it's more specific, I'll mark "Chinese" or "Hawaiian," but the latter is rarely offered as a choice.

I never mark "white" or "Anglo-American" and I rarely check "other." First, the word "other" really bothers me because it makes me feel that if I don't check one of the five recognized racial groups then I don't count. Or if I don't fit the surveyor's needs or their target market then I don't exist. If there's a space to write in next to "other," then I check it and list my racial background. I figure they can figure it out.

I don't choose "white" because I feel like I'm more than white. My Hawaiian grandmother would never choose "white" because she still refers to white people as "haoles," pronounced "how-leees." It's not really a derogatory term, but it's what the Hawaiians use in this sense: "Why don't you bring your haole friend over for dinner?" It's a point of distinction, I guess.

From my grandmother's dinner table to college admissions applications, I struggle to define myself in a society that gives a lot of meaning to race.

Affirmative action, for example, becomes extremely confusing for people like me. Basically, people I meet have one of two views about affirmative action: They either generally agree with its intentions or they think it's unfair.

My mixed race puts me in the awkward position of hearing people from both sides go off about the issue as if I were part of their camp.

I'll be sitting in class and someone will pipe up that the minorities are "taking all our jobs away." I'll look over at a black student or an Asian student, who gives me the "they don't get it" look. I give the same look back.

On the other side, a colleague of mine told me the other day he wished he were a minority so he'd have a chance at getting a job. When I reminded him that I had accepted a job offer that was aimed at minority applicants, he said his comments didn't apply to me.

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OPINION: Ellen's gay-so are thousands of others

The Daily Sundial
California State University-Northridge

It has got to be a tough gig being a homosexual in the age of "political correctness." Who really cares that this is America, "the home of the free?" The country that prides itself on being the nation where "all men are created equal ..."

A recent cover of Time magazine boasted Ellen DeGeneres, star of the hit sitcom "Ellen," announcing that she was indeed gay.

Speculation on this matter has been running rampant over the course of the past few months, it almost became a matter of national importance. Still it prompts many self-respecting citizens to ask the ever-lingering question: "Who really gives a damn?"

Yeah, she's gay. So are hundreds of thousands of other people.

Nonetheless, there are still several simpletons out there who can't find anything better to do with their time than make a big brouhaha — one such example being the American Family Association, a radical right organization dedicated to upholding "family values."

And what better way to uphold the moral fabric in American society by targeting a source of such moral depravity as the show "Ellen?" Let us not forget the sitcom is produced by the Disney corporation, the symbol for all

things good and pure ...

The American Family Association has compiled a list of the three leading "Ellen" advertisers from Jan. 1, 1997 through March 22, 1997. In an attempt to get the show off the air, the group is encouraging its followers to contact these advertisers and "politely" ask them not to sponsor DeGeneres' show and stop pushing the "homosexual agenda."

Agenda? Are they planning on weaving an evil, mindlock web around America's television viewing public in an attempt to brainwash them into their "way of living?"

Probably not. Oprah has been doing this for years; no one is sabotaging her advertising.

It becomes increasingly hard to editorialize against such narrow-mindedness. Hey, people are gay ... Get over it. Is bigotry a family value we want instilled in our children? Hopefully not.

People aren't gay by choice, and if even if they were ... so what? "All men created equal." Apparently, this doesn't mean anything unless one is straight, but even then it doesn't mean a helluva lot.

Unfortunately, we're a country built on hypocrisy. It's a shame people care more about Ellen's sexual orientation.

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Free ...

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paper was going, even after my initial recitation of the obstacles I was encountering, never failed to lighten my load and strengthen my resolve. It was encouraging to know that I was not the only one who had these experiences and your reassurances and "pats on the back" helped more than you can ever know. And I don't know if I mentioned it, but periwinkle is a great color on you.

Amy Carroll, Graphic Art Goddess, Pagemaker 5.0 Prophet and scanning wizard. Your willingness to share your knowledge and to help kept me from pulling out even larger chunks of hair. Your super-secret Pagemaker knowledge helped me out of many a jam. Your candor and generosity still bring a smile to face and make pasted-up sooooo much easier. (Ahhhh, the miracle of a waxer.) And thanks for not laughing at me at the pool. You have a heart of gold, and like me, will probably wear bangs forever.

LeeAnn Dickson, The Bill Gates of UAS. Your knowledge of computers is only exceeded by your ability to refrain from slapping hysterical women whose computers have frozen up three hours before the flats had to be at the printer. (That would be me.) If it were up to me your would be paid the same as Bill Gates, (but we all know that's impossible, what with the excessive budget cuts by the legislature). You taught me much about computers, including, "Sometimes they just do that."

Dave Kleinpeter, He who does all. Your training sessions on software programs and information was appreciated more than you know. I can now superimpose my face on Hillary's body and people will think I really know Bill Clinton. Your support for the Whalesong was un-

believable, as well as your assistance for the entire student body and student activities, much of which goes unacknowledged, but certainly not unnoticed. I think I owe you some cookies.

Aaron Spitzer, reviewer extraordinaire, production manager par excellence. You enabled me to actually edit. Your wry and insightful perceptions never failed to ground me, (in fact, they sometimes floored me), or at the very least amuse me. You ability to tolerate my sense of humor at 1:00 a.m. when I've only had five hours of sleep is a testament to your preternatural self-control. You are a man of incredible intelligence. Your brilliance is easily recognizable in your reviews and in your conversation. But more than that you are an exceptionally nice person and have become a friend. And it was through you I realized that Mountain Dew isn't just a carbonated drink, but a way of life.

Myron and Dorothy, our printers with hearts of gold. Your guidance and instruction explained many a too dark picture and your patience, ("uh, we should have the paper to you by Thursday afternoon. Can we still get it by Friday afternoon?") was unbelievable. The Whalesong was lucky to have you.

Ryan Barber and Chris Benson, Gods of the celluloid criticism. After sitting in front of a computer for 15-plus hours your reviews never failed to make me laugh, at times maniacally and hysterically, but that's another story. Your wit and humor always made me smile and you were always there with a review. Next years editor will be at a loss without the two of you, and I personally will miss seeing you around campus. Whenever I come across the written versions of "crap," "hell," "ass" or "damn" I will think of you and know that sometimes "dang" or "dam"

Adjunct faculty can vote to unionize

ALRA rejects university's opposition

By Wayne Saucier
Whalesong Reporter

Part-time faculty members in the entire University of Alaska system have been authorized by the Alaska Labor Relations Agency (ALRA) to vote on whether or not to form a legal bargaining unit.

In so doing, the agency rejected the university's formal opposition to allowing the members, called adjuncts, to attempt to form a union.

Adjuncts are part-time instructors, and are paid by the class. This is partly the basis for the university's objection.

"After the last day of classes, they're not employed anymore," said Jim Johnsen, UA director of labor relations. They are simply temporary workers hired on a semester basis.

UAS-JC Student Body President Shawn Paul was concerned about the implications of the union on future university upgrades.

"I support everyone's right to organize," he said. "But the university may want to better a program by bringing in faculty with Ph.D's but not be able to due to financial constraints because of the union." He would encourage the union to organize, he said, if there was some assurance that the "university can still retain the right to improve programs."

"It's kind of a catch-22," he said. The university's official opposition to the union was based on whether or not the adjuncts qualified to be a proper bargaining group based on state requirements, including having similar jobs, qualifications, hours, wages and working conditions.

Over 1,100 adjuncts statewide qualify to be part of the bargaining unit. If successful, the adjuncts will be associated with the American Federation of Teachers and the American Association of University Professors, both of which are affiliated with university faculty unions.

As child, I was always curious about why my physical features were generally darker than many of my friends. Despite my persistent questions, my parents would always answer, "Everyone is just born different, Sara. God made everyone special." But still, I asked.

And now that I'm 20, I think the best way of labeling who I am came from my 6-year-old sister — I have brown hair and tan skin, but it's not from the sun. As a matter of fact, I'm just me.

It's become clear to me that people aren't comfortable talking about race. It's considered similar to talking about religion in polite company. But when it is discussed, people seem to be more comfortable amongst people like themselves.

So where does that leave people like me? I think the great thing about being both Caucasian and Asian is that I can relate to both cultures. Maybe that's why I've spent my entire life trying to figure out why there are so many race problems in the world.

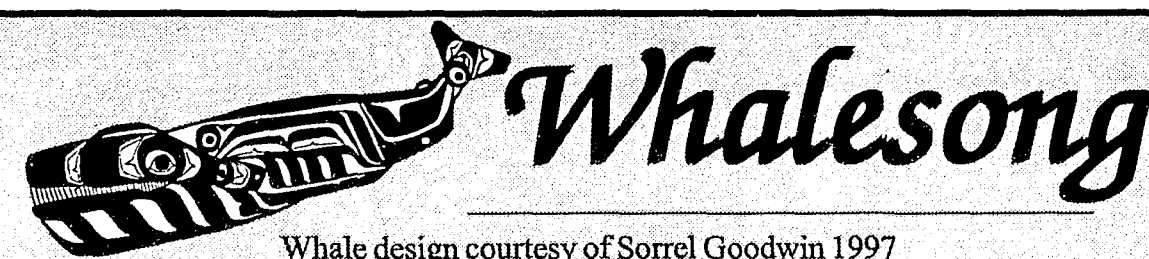
Ever since I was very young I have been intrigued by the meaning of race in our society, and I think having parents of different

just won't do the trick. It is because of you I will forever picture Marlon Brando's face on Jabba the Hut's body. And, as always, when I go to the video store I will wonder, "What would Chris and Ryan advise?"

Bruce Wright, the most amazing man in the world and the most wonderful husband to ever exist. Without you I could not have survived. Who else would have brought me dinner at midnight? Who else would have gone to the Whalesong office with me after a full day at work and slept on the sofas just to be near me? Who else would have driven around in the rain distributing papers in the middle of the night? I have hardly seen you these past two semesters, and when I did I was more often than not stressed out and dare I say a wee bit cranky. You always had a smile and always made me laugh at the perversion and absurdity of this character-building experience. You have taught me that as long as I have you, no task is insurmountable. You're the best ... always and forever.

To those of you who stopped me on campus and offered me reassurance and support for the positions I did take, you often provided a much needed lift at a stressful time and made me feel as though I was doing something positive and worthwhile. Thank you.

To all of the people who wrote letters to the editor, I thank you for your involvement. Few of you who wrote agreed with what I said in the my editorials, but you took the time to write and make your point of view heard. You got involved, and while we may be on opposite sides of the fence I respect and appreciate your opinions. To those of you who sent hate mail and anonymous hateful attacks I have but one question: Do you purchase the 48 or the 64 box of Crayolas for your correspondence?



Whale design courtesy of Sorrel Goodwin 1997

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, The Whalesong, is a bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience is UAS students, although its broader audience includes faculty, staff, and community members. Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas. The staff of the Whalesong values freedom of expression and encourages reader response.

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Student govt adopts new constitution

Changes will increase stipends for future presidents, vice presidents

By Paul Converse
Whalesong Reporter

Student government members voted to enact a new constitution for the United Students of UAS on Friday, April 18. The new constitution, which passed 7-1 and became effective immediately, made changes to student government's structure, deregulated meeting agendas, increased stipends received by the president and vice president, and changed policies affecting student clubs.

Student Body President Shawn Paul said, "The big thing to me is changing the nature of the organization. I think we'll be able to get a lot more done." The new constitution removes the often adversarial two-branched legislative and executive form of government, replacing it with a single student senate. While student government used to consist of eight representatives and a president and vice president, it now consists of nine senators. The president and vice president positions no longer exist separately; in-

stead, there will be a president and vice president of the senate. This change means that both the president and vice president will have votes; perhaps most significantly, the change means that the president no longer has the power to veto legislation.

The annual stipends that the president and vice president receive have been raised: the president by 50 percent; the vice president by 25 percent. The president formerly received \$2,000 annually, but will now receive \$3,000. The vice president used to receive \$1,500 annually, but will now receive \$2,000. Paul, who is graduating this spring and will no longer be president, argued in support of the increased stipends, saying that they should be viewed as "a gift" to the president and vice president in return for all the time and effort those leaders give to the school. He said that he has lost approximately \$60,000 in potential earnings during his two terms as president because of the time he has devoted to student government.

The stipends will not be reduced to penalize unexcused absences, as they were in the past.

Rep. Kelli Wood believed that stipend increases were excessive, and voted against the new constitution. She was the only student representative to do so.

A significant change also occurred with how USUAS will deal with student clubs. Under the new constitution, USUAS has delegated its authority over student clubs to the Assistant Director of Student Services. Additionally, the senate is required to provide a "club fund" to be administered by the Assistant Director of Student Services. The annual amount of money given to the club fund will be 5 percent of USUAS's projected income.

Other changes affect elections. Under the old constitution, the president, vice president and three representatives were elected in the spring, and the remaining five representatives were elected in the fall. Under the new constitution, most of the senate seats—six of the nine that exist—will be elected in the spring. The three remaining seats will be elected in the fall.

Another change is that input from the USUAS advisor will be used to determine who will receive student government scholarships. Under the old system, the financial aid office selected scholarship recipients without input from anyone involved with student government. Members of student government, however, remain eligible for the USUAS scholarships. Student government awards \$5,000

in scholarships annually.

Meeting agendas have also changed; under the old constitution, every assembly meeting was required to follow a strict order of business specified in the constitution but the order of business will now be determined by the senate president. Instead of only following Robert's Rules of Order, the new senate may now adopt a "working rules of procedure." The Finance Committee is now required to develop and implement an annual fundraising program. Another change is that student government is now required to meet at least once during the summer. It was not required to do so previously.

President Paul explained that the constitution was approved by the assembly, as opposed to the student body, because there was a time constraint with the up-coming elections and the format of the government had to be decided rapidly. "I doubt that the students are going to be too upset about making it more efficient," he added. "We're not dealing with student rights.... It doesn't change the role of student government. In fact, we've increased our role as student government members by taking on outdoor activities, a significant increased presence in state politics and in University system governance. And we've better defined some of the roles in student government."

The prior constitution had been in place since March 24, 1994.

Movie reviews with Chris and Ryan

Our combative critics duke it out over the latest Juneau flicks

Liar, Liar

Liar, Liar is Jim Carrey's latest movie. He stars as a somewhat sleazy attorney who lies his way through everyday and neglects his 5 year old son Max (Justin Cooper). When Carrey doesn't show for his son's birthday party young Max wishes that his father couldn't tell a lie for one whole day and surprise, surprise it comes true.

RYAN: I have to say that I was disappointed by this movie (though judging from the audiences reaction I was alone in my disappointment). Jim Carrey is such a talented comedic actor and such a good box office draw that he is in a position to control his own destiny (controlling one's own destiny being my personal dream) yet he keeps doing such mediocre movies and I just can't understand it. Basketball great Isiah Thomas said when he retired, "at least I didn't waste my talent." If Jimbo doesn't make some changes soon he won't be able to say the same thing. He'll end up making huge sums of money and will probably be able to happily retire to whatever third world country he chooses to buy, but none of us will ever know how good he could have been and from my point of view that would be a damn shame.

CHRIS: I'm forced to agree with Ryan 100 percent on his somewhat mediocre point. Carrey does do the same thing in all his movies, but he is also pretty good at it. I'm not sure I really want to see him try to expand himself. Like the old saying goes; maybe a duck should just know that it's a duck and forget about it. What Carrey needs is better scripts. His comedic talents are still not completely explored, and this movie didn't make any leaps and bounds in that direction. I was in a good mood when I saw it and maybe it was just this fact that saved me from the morbid bitterness that Ryan displayed after we left the theater (although there's nothing new about that, and I know mood isn't the only factor). Basically, I enjoyed the movie, laughed quite a bit, but probably wouldn't go see it again anytime soon.

RYAN: A duck should know it's a duck??? I'm not really sure what Chris is trying to say but then he isn't either so I suppose my confusion is only natural. I do agree that Jim-Bob needs some better scripts but as I said due to his financial success he should be able to choose the best ones. While I was left wanting more I did find this movie amusing and enjoyed it much more than most of Jimmy's other films. One person who did a great job was Carey Elwes; he played the ex-wife's dorky boyfriend to an almost painful perfection.

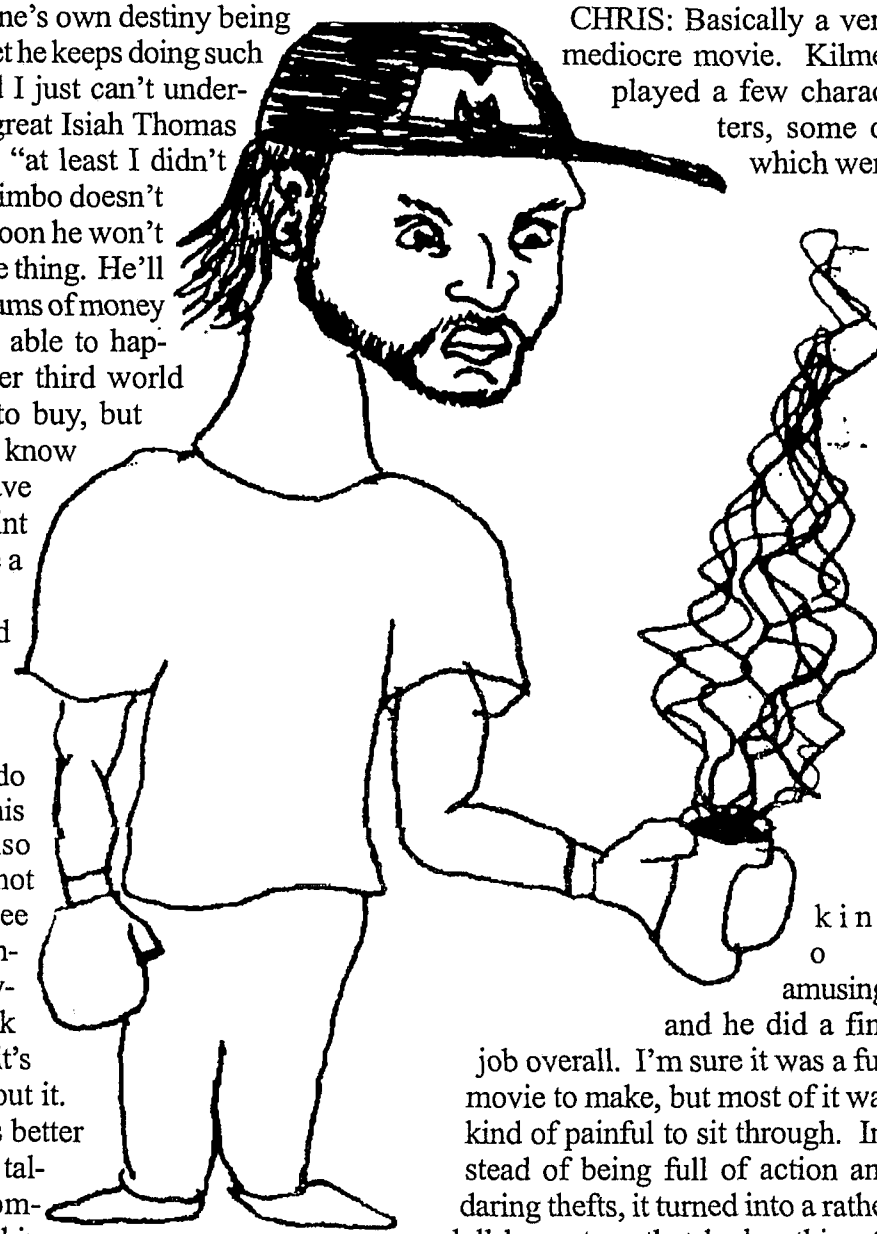
CHRIS: That's true that Jimbo has no excuse for picking crappy scripts, not that this was a particularly bad one or anything, but I suppose he probably doesn't get too many that fit with his kind of limited talent-area. (Sorry if the duck thing was over your head Ryan, I'll try to bring it down a bit now). Carey Elwes (from Princess Bride, in case you didn't know) did do a good job, and the kid who played Max (Justin Cooper) was much better

than most child-actors today. I must say that one of the funniest parts of the whole movie were the little clips of out-takes that they showed during the credits. My recommendation is that this would be a really good video rental, if you like Jim Carrey.

The Saint

The Saint is an action/adventure movie starring Val Kilmer and Elisabeth Shue. Val Kilmer plays a professional thief, who uses the names of various Catholic Saints as aliases. He's hired by a wealthy Russian oil tycoon to steal Dr. Emma Russell's (Elisabeth Shue) plans for a cold fusion reactor.

CHRIS: Basically a very mediocre movie. Kilmer played a few characters, some of which were



kind of amusing, and he did a fine job overall. I'm sure it was a fun movie to make, but most of it was kind of painful to sit through. Instead of being full of action and daring thefts, it turned into a rather dull love story that had nothing to do with the plot.

RYAN: For probably the first time in his life Chris is right, this movie was mediocre and boring. Val Kilmer would be well advised to make sure that his next movie doesn't drag along as badly as this one. It's a shame to see him wasting his talents on characterless characters like "the Saint". A documentary about some real Catholic saints would have been more exciting (that's not meant as a knock on the catholic church).

CHRIS: Ryan's always knocking the Catholic church, the heathenistic bastard, but I do agree with his remark. Elisabeth Shue disappointed me even more. At least Val had a few parts where he could work on accents and stuff, which he did a good job with. Shue, on the other hand, has absolutely nothing to show for her time spent on this film. Her character might as well have been non-existent, and I sure hope she didn't get paid too much.

RYAN: If I'm a heathenistic bastard then Chris is the antichrist (for the record I am not always knocking the Catholic church or any other church and some of my best friends are Catholics). As for Elisabeth, the Shue doesn't fit in this movie mainly because she has even less to work with than Kilmer. I don't want to get on my soap box again (as if I ever really got off the damn thing), but there aren't many interesting female characters in any of the films I've seen lately. Some people, (like Chris), might say that the reason there aren't any interesting female characters is women

aren't interesting as anything beyond sex objects, but he's dead wrong. I would like to apologize right now if I've offended any women with what I've said while writing one of these movie reviews. I think that women are very interesting and have a lot to contribute to our society (especially those women who can cook and clean).

Seriously though someone like Elisabeth Shue who has some real talent as an actress (see Leaving Las Vegas if you don't believe me) shouldn't be taking this kind of tiresome role. In fact Hollywood shouldn't even be making this kind of repetitious "action" movie at all. Don't bother to see it.

CHRIS: Blah, Blah, Blah, Ryan rambles. That cooking and cleaning thing is way out of line, even for someone like him. I disagree with this film being called repetitious. I thought the plot was a little unusual for an action movie today. Even though it did drag on quite a bit in the relationship with Kilmer and Shue I thought it had potential as far as the cold fusion, super thief part went. Like I said, a few of his disguises were good, and he had a whole bunch of neat little gadgets. Oh yeah, that Shue not fitting joke is not even up to par with Ryan's weak sense of humor, and for that I do apologize to all of you reading this. As for my closing remarks; this is definitely a video rental not worthy of any of the stars it contains.

The Devil's Own

The Devil's Own is a dramatic adventure film starring Harrison Ford and Brad Pitt. Brad Pitt plays an IRA member who is being hunted by the British Secret Service. He decides to lay low in NYC for a time while orchestrating a deal to acquire Stinger Missiles. He is set up, by a Judge "Friend", in the house of a unsuspecting police officer Tom O'Meara (Harrison Ford).

RYAN: I liked this movie because it is had a human element to it. Both Pitt and Ford's characters are likable guys who fit none too neatly into a large gray area as opposed to being sterile good versus repugnant evil. The time spent developing their relationship and the family atmosphere of the home that they are sharing is definitely worth it. By taking this time early in the movie to develop the characters it makes it all the more real when their life is torn apart by violence.

CHRIS: The characters are developed well, which is a welcome change to the drab action and high cost films coming out these days, but I had a few objections to them none the less. Ford, who I've never disliked in a film, did a disappointingly mediocre job. His character was so two-dimensional that even his presence couldn't do much to save it, and it seemed to me that his heart just wasn't into the role. Pitt should not have attempted an Irish accent. He did a lot better than I thought he would, but he had a hard time acting and doing the voice at the same time. I didn't notice any times when he slipped in his Irishness, but I've definitely seen him give a better performance.

RYAN: I don't know what the hell Chris is doing criticizing Ford and Pitt as if he knows anything about being a New York cop or an Irish terrorist. Both of the actors did a fine job, take it from me because as

usual he doesn't know his ass from his elbow (or anything about the movie either). As I was saying earlier in the part that has some validity to it (my part that is) the family scenes made the violence in this movie much more realistic and dramatic. Because we can actually identify with the characters we care when they are attacked. I was actually moved to clap when Pitt kills Treat William's scum of the earth arms dealer. That's what this movie does, it allows you to get involved and experience some emotion and that my friends is a good thing.

CHRIS: I felt no emotion, I was however slightly annoyed with my aforementioned observations. Because of the family scenes, I did like both the main characters and, of course, didn't want any harm to come to either of them, but Ford's motivation was somewhat sketchy and this led to an overall unbelievable to the film. As for my ass and elbow, that's none of Ryan's business, but I do know lots more about what makes a good movie.

RYAN: If Chris really knew what made a good movie then he would say the intelligent things in this column instead of me. I thought that Ford's motivation was

obvious, but he is a good guy who does the right thing. That is his motivation, trying to do the right thing, and I can see how it wouldn't be an easy thing to do. Anyway I liked the movie quite a bit and was even able to tolerate it's overall Irishness much better than I expected. I suggest that if you like good dramatic movies that don't give you any easy answers go and see The Devil's Own

(the title refers to all of us I think). CHRIS: Ryan would do good not to knock the Irish, who will one day rule the Earth. I say to go see this movie, which despite my bitter ramblings, is pretty good, and to judge for yourself once and for all who out of the two of us knows a hawk from a

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Letters to the Editor

Travel...

continued from page 1

should meet; know your facts, your legislator(s) and your legislation; get to the point when meeting with a legislator; leave a summary of your facts and requests; and send the official a thank-you card after the meeting. "Basically," Gilbert said, "kiss a whole lot of butt."

Gilbert also pointed out that students, when focused together, can do a great deal to affect government leaders and legislation. "If you can rally students together," she said, "you'll have a lot of power."

Gilbert also informed the other representatives that she had learned of an organization called the National Association of Students for Higher Education, (NASHE), which she believes UAS should join. Membership in the association would cost \$300; UAS would have three votes at the association's meetings. Rep. Wood pointed out that UAS would have to send a representative to Washington D.C. to vote at the association's annual meeting, and Gilbert replied that if UAS joined she would hope to send two representatives to the Washington D.C. meetings. Gilbert explained that joining NASHE could be beneficial to UAS, stating, "If there is a possibility of getting more funding here, that would be wonderful. And we would have a national voice."

At the end of her presentation, Gilbert, referring to the representative's travel to the conferences, said, "We were all green; we needed training. I think it's a good thing that we went."

After Gilbert's presentation ended, several participants complained of being cold, so Rep. Dennis moved the workshop back to the Mourt conference room. Dennis had attended the three-day, "Eighth Annual National Conference on Student Diversity," held in Boston. He explained that it was a workshop-oriented conference, geared towards admin-

istrators, that discussed sexual harassment, homophobia, and minority issues.

Dennis started his presentation by announcing that he would use a question and answer format so he wouldn't go through information that people already knew. He also conducted an exercise designed to help participants realize that they had prejudices. The exercise, he noted, didn't work very well due to the small size of the group.

When asked what he learned at the conference, Dennis replied he learned that "as student government leaders, we have to remember that we represent everyone and we have to remember that we have to be the lead in making sure no one is discriminated against at UAS."

"We need to encourage minorities to run for student government," Dennis added. "We have no excuse that student government is all-white."

Midway through Dennis' presentation, Rep. Pat Cunningham appeared. When the other representatives chastized Cunningham for being late, he explained that he was not there to attend the workshop, but to rent a kayak. The other representatives protested and told Cunningham he was required to attend, but Cunningham replied that he was unable to attend because he had not been sufficiently notified of the workshop. "I heard yesterday," he said. He explained that by the time he was made aware of the workshop, he had already made plans for the day. Despite the protests, Cunningham kept to his prior plans and went kayaking.

At the end of his presentation, Dennis an-

nounced that he was resigning due to the disappointing lack of involvement from students and student government members. After Dennis' announcement the workshop paused for a short break, and Dennis wrote a letter formally announcing his resignation. It read:

"April 5, 1997

Dear Fellow Student Government Members:

I hereby resign my position, effective immediately.

I remain available as a resource.

It's been real.

Sincerely,

Demian Dennis"

Although contacted later, Dennis said he did not have anything further to say about his resignation.

He did acknowledge that he was disappointed with the lack of student—especially student representative—involvement.

Autumn Lowrey,

who attended the Texas "Conference on Student Government Associations" with Rep. Gilbert was the next to present. She moved the workshop to the computer lab, and, after the participants were all seated at computers, showed them how to reach a web-site called College Club. According to literature Lowrey handed out, College Club "enables college students, faculty and administrators to conveniently interact and exchange information about virtually anything relating to campus life, using computers." Lowrey explained that utilizing College Club "will help you get your name out" and "will get the students more involved in the university and community."

At the end of her presentation, Lowrey said, "I think going to the conference has really helped us grow as student leaders," adding that she "learned how to get the students more involved."

Lack of student involvement

In a discussion after the presentations ended, the representatives spoke about the lack of student involvement on campus and the role of student government. When asked how student government had announced the workshop to students, the representatives explained that they had contacted 194 housing students by e-mail, and had put flyers up around campus. However, the flyers they put up were only posted the day before the workshop. Rosie Gilbert admitted, "we could have done a better job on P.R."

The representatives said they realized that poor announcement of the workshop might have played a role in the lack of student attendance. In fact, the representatives had been warned earlier about the lack of a timely announcement. At the April 4 student government meeting, when the workshop was officially announced, student government's administrative assistant, David Kleinpeter, told the representatives "Publicity going up today was a bad idea. It should have been up a week ago."

"To me," Rep. Pat Cunningham explained in a recent interview, "it wasn't clear at all that the workshop was coming up." He added, "You'd think they'd have made a bigger thing of it. There's something wrong with our program if that's as good as it goes."

However, Reps. Gilbert, Lowrey and Wood still complained about the lack of student involvement as a whole, throughout the school year. Rep. Kelli Wood felt that the perceived lack of interest is due to the fact that there are a large number of part-time students at UAS. "It's hard to expect half-time students to be as interested as full-time," she said. When

asked what she saw as the cause for the lack of student interest in school activities, Autumn Lowrey said, "We're missing that because we don't have sports."

Students not considered

An interesting point, however, is that when student government was discussing who they would send to the Texas and Boston conferences, they did not seriously consider involving students. At a Jan. 24 meeting, when student government was asked if students were being considered to receive travel funding for the conferences, Vice President Stephanie McGee responded "You mean as far as the student body, who's not here? That would be something to look at. I guess it's been done in the past. There's mixed emotions on my part." Although student government had been discussing the conferences for nearly three months—since Nov. 1—they had never made any announcement of the proposed travel and had not considered sending the students.

At that same Jan. 24 meeting, Rep. Rosie Gilbert had added "I agree that involvement is the main key for a student who wanted to go to these, and if they're not here for the meetings that it's kind of hard to say 'This is an opportunity for you, are you interested?' ... They've got to make themselves seen if they're interested in this."

Additionally, Rep. Wood said at the January meeting that "My question is who is going to come up with the criteria and the advertising, review applications and present this committee or body by next week? I think it's a great idea to consider students to go. I agree with Steph [McGee] in that I feel like they should be people who have been active in student government, but I feel like before we start saying 'Ok, we're opening this up, people come in and talk to us,' we need to know what our standards are going to be.... And I think a one week time is a really short period of time. [Tickets for the conference had to be purchased by Jan 30]. I don't know, maybe no one will come in and ask about it," Wood continued, "but if you have at least five people who came in, that's, I would think, at least three hours work."

Before the Jan. 24, meeting was over the representatives had decided that to consider sending a student to either the Boston or the Texas conference would not be possible due to time limitations.

After the April 5 workshop, when Rep. Lowrey was asked how student government considered sending students to conferences, she replied "Who would we send? Who would we want to send? Does anyone ever come to our meetings?"

"There's no student involvement," she complained. It seems to be a common complaint. Ironically, at the same time that representatives complain it is difficult to help students travel to events because students don't come and ask for funding, some students complain that it is discouragingly difficult to approach student government.

No funding for Biology Club

This spring, the members of the UAS Marine Biology Club had hoped that student government would subsidize the club's spring-break field trip to Petersburg. Anne Reynolds, president of the club, says she experienced so much difficulty trying to seek student government support that she finally gave up. The Marine Biology Club, she said, wanted to ask student government to pay one-half of the transportation costs for the club to travel to Petersburg and back by ferry. For the club's dozen or so members, that would have been about \$350. Reynolds said that the club field trip was an activity that would help promote UAS's biology, geology and ecology programs, get students out in the field, and help promote a sense of student unity.

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Travel...

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she approached a student government employee early in the semester to ask how to obtain student government funding and was informed she should talk to a representative for assistance. When Reynolds called a representative, she was told that she would need to write a formal proposal to present to student government, introducing the club, stating what the club would be doing, and why they needed funding. While speaking with the representative she "was given the impression, and pretty much told, that we could go through all the motions and we would have to pay the money back."

Reynolds spoke with the club advisor, Dr. Ed Caine, and the club decided that as membership usually changes significantly from year to year, a loan wouldn't be appropriate. It would be unfair, the club felt, to obtain a loan benefiting this year's members that would have to be paid back by next year's members.

After that decision had been made, Reynolds spoke with the representative again and was told to write up an informal request for funding and to present the request at the next student government meeting. Reynolds prepared her papers, and, on Friday, Feb. 21, went to the student government meeting-room shortly before the regular meeting time of 5:30 p.m. Unfortunately, the student government members failed to arrive. Eventually, Reynolds grew tired of waiting and left; some time later she found out the meeting had been canceled.

Reynolds contacted the representative again and was told that the proposal could be introduced at the next meeting. However, as requests for funding have to be presented at two student government meetings before they can be approved, and because there were no longer two student government meetings remaining before the biology trip would take place, the club would have to present an emergency request for funding. Anne Reynolds explained, "I was told to write up a proposal and present it, and that wasn't a problem—but I was also told that it probably wouldn't happen. I felt very discouraged in my conversations with the representative and felt like it would be a waste of time." In the end, the Marine Biology never presented a formal written request at a student government meeting.

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MEETINGS

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Bill process new

Part of the confusion about obtaining student government support may be related to the bill-writing process, which is new. Although it is designed to keep better track of where money is going, it has also caused frustration, as with the Marine Biology Club. "The bill process is completely new," Gilbert said. "We just made it up this year." She explained that before the bill process was instituted, clubs "could just walk in the door and ask for money and receive it." Now, however, clubs or individuals must write a bill and then submit it at two different assembly meetings. Although representatives will help people write the bills, it still seems to be causing some difficulty for students. This procedure is significantly different than bill-writing procedures at a state or federal; Alaskans hoping to see the state legislature enact a piece of legislation do not usually have to write the legislation themselves.

Reynolds explained that there are many factors affecting student involvement, and that financial support is one of them. "Student involvement is not just related to financial support," she said. "But it might help. I think they

"I thought [student government's travel] was maybe a little excessive. I thought we were sending too many people."

—Shawn Paul, UAS student body president

are used for. Students who enroll in more than three credits pay \$17 a semester to student government; the fee is non-refundable.

Reynolds also wondered how much travel money has gone to the clubs and how much has gone to student government members. "They seem like kind of a closed-off little unit," Reynolds said.

Travel costs

How much has student government spent on travel? According to official assembly-meeting minutes from Jan. 17, "the travel budget is \$12,000 for the [fiscal] year, which includes clubs," according to President Paul. UAS student government has actually exceeded their original travel budget this year, spending \$12,465 between August 1996 and April 1997. The entire amount spent—some 23 percent of all student government spending so far this year—went to the travel expenses incurred by members of student government. In fact, because they exceeded their travel budget, they had to approach Chancellor Lind to have the limit raised to \$14,400. Members are planning to attend one more Board of Regents meeting this year; attendance at that meeting, which occurs in

Dillingham this June, will undoubtedly be costly.

Student government members have traveled to three in-state Board of Regents or student coalition meetings this year, and to three conferences in the Lower 48 (one each in Boston

Another point of interest is that Pres. Paul never signed the bills funding travel to the Boston and Texas conferences. However, because he did not veto the legislation within six days after the bills passed the council, the bills went into effect by default. Paul said he did not sign the travel bills because "I thought it was maybe a little excessive. I thought we were sending too many people."

He didn't veto the legislation, however, because he did not feel he had enough support on the council to avoid an override. "I do recommend to them that they keep a much closer eye on travel next year," he added.

Upside of travel

Paul said that it is important to remember that the representatives who traveled "all brought back something to teach. It's more than just that one impact, that one training session. The real benefit is going to be next year," he said.

Rep. Chris Tolvo, who went to the diversity conference in Boston, says that he is looking forward to making his presentation, although he is not sure when it will occur and the end of the semester is drawing near. "It was an incredible conference," he said. "I learned a lot in terms of diversity." He feels that in addition to bettering himself as a student, he learned how to be a better student leader and learned how to help bring and maintain a multi-cultural population at the school. "We've had a large problem with student retention in the past," he said, explaining that he learned about racism and "what goes on and what we can do to prevent it."

"If we can find a conference with the same content at a closer location," Tolvo said, "that would be great. If not, I would be in favor of sending another student to Boston next year."

Rep. Kelli Wood explained that the philosophy behind sending representatives to conferences is that "the better trained student government representatives you have, the better you're going to be represented as a student."

Not everyone agrees that training student government leaders should consume so much funding, however. As Anne Reynolds says, "At a small school, I think the students should be more of a priority to student government members, rather than learning how to be leaders."

Although everyone undoubtedly agrees that gaining experience and knowledge is beneficial, questions about the amount of money that student government spent to train a select group of its own members—along with questions about student government's interaction with the student body—remain.

and Texas this spring, and one in Portland, Ore. last fall). Student government spent only \$6,761 on travel last year, when no out-of-state trips were taken.

Back in January, Tish Griffin, who serves as an advisor to student government, warned members about spending so much money on travel. "We've never experienced this much travel out of any student government that we've had," she said then, noting that members had never attended national conferences outside of the Pacific Northwest region before. "It's an incredible opportunity... but I think you need to think through the perceptions from outside about who's going, how much you've traveled this year and what you're doing, why you're doing it...and what they're bringing back to the group. Especially...if these people that you're sending to these conferences are not going to be a part of the group or not do something for this student body to bring back whatever it is that they've learned."

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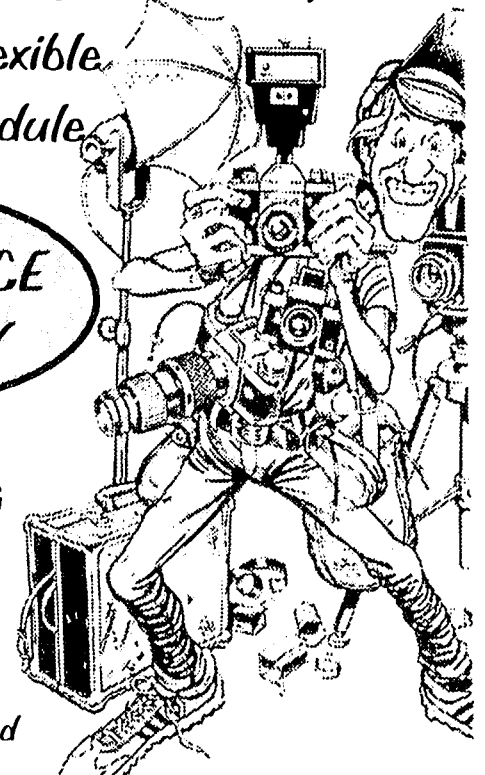
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Dr. David Ho: 'AIDS re-search must increase'

By Jenny Labalme
Indianapolis Star and News Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

Dr. David Ho has a lot to celebrate. The New York-based AIDS scientist and Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year has received wide praise for his pioneering treatment for human immunodeficiency virus, the infection that causes AIDS.

But Ho—whose therapy program keeps the virus at virtually undetectable levels in the body—is cautious in his approach.

"It's not time to celebrate," Ho said Wednesday to an audience of about 350 at DePauw University. "It's time to redouble our research efforts and education."

Even though scientists have made great advances, Ho reminded the crowd of students and professors that each day 8,500 people worldwide are infected. Through his work as science director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, Ho discovered that a drug therapy program administered in the early stages of the infection can suppress the virus so it appears to be eliminated.

"But just because the HIV is undetectable doesn't mean it's absent," Ho added.

The drug regimen known as protease inhibitors doesn't rid the body of AIDS but has allowed once-bedridden patients to return to work. The inhibitors typically are taken with other AIDS drugs.

Ho compared the program to taking insulin for diabetes or medication to control high blood pressure. The protease inhibitors, Ho said, will keep the virus in check.

"HIV treatment has undergone a huge revolution in the past year," said

Steve Johnson, a legal advocate with the nonprofit Indiana Community AIDS Action Network.

"Before, it was a process on your way to die. Now it's a process toward life."

Until the beginning of this month, Indiana was one of 14 states nationwide that offered no money for protease inhibitors.

A portion of this fiscal year's Ryan White Care Act grant of \$2.3 million will be funneled toward the protease inhibitors. Also, a new budget appropriation Indiana lawmakers are considering could set aside about \$3.75 million in the next two years for AIDS drug treatments, including the inhibitors.

So far, there has been no quibbling among lawmakers about the appropriation, which will be looked at on Thursday in conference committee along with the budget.

Ho said the estimated \$15,000 a year for the protease drug treatment is costly because drug companies have spent a lot of money researching and producing the drug. Ho added that the \$15,000 doesn't include the costs of lab tests and doctor exams.

There currently are four HIV protease inhibitors, the fourth drug licensed as recently as last month.

"But the game is not over," Ho said. "Bear in mind that these drugs are expensive, have side effects and that nine out of every 10 HIV cases occurs in developing countries where the national expenditure per person each year for health care is \$3 to \$4."

Movies...

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a handsaw.

RYAN: Well now children it has come time for us to say our good-byes. It isn't an easy thing to do because while working with incompetence has been one of the more frustrating parts of my two years here at UAS, I have become against my better judgment somewhat fond of Mr. Benson. He is that rarest of things; an ass who knows he's an ass and freely admits it.

As for myself I have enjoyed watching and writing about the movies for the past three semesters and I hope you have enjoyed reading about them. So if I can end this having brought any light, having exposed any meaningful truth that will help people better understand and enjoy the movies we all watch—then all of the credit is due to Allah. Only the mistakes have been mine, well mostly Chris's (Yes, I am paraphrasing Malcolm X you got a problem with that?)

CHRIS: I am forced to return feelings of unwilling brotherhood and comradeship to my good friend Ryan J. Barber. It has been a great time working on these lame reviews with him over the past couple semesters (and attempting to cover up his ignorance). I am, I guess, somewhat saddened by the close of it all. For you readers out there; I've had no lofty goals of shedding any kind of truth on anything. Basically, thanks for reading, if you did, I hope that we've at least entertained on occasion, and most of all thanks for the free movies.

UAS student selected for Regent position

By Paul Converse
Whalesong Reporter

For the first time in twelve years, a student from Southeast has been appointed to serve on the University of Alaska Board of Regents as a student representative. Annette Nelson-Wright learned Tuesday, April 22 that Governor Tony Knowles had selected her to fill the soon-to-be-vacated student seat on the UA Board of Regents.

"I didn't expect to get it," said Nelson-Wright, a junior seeking a Bachelor of Liberal Arts, "I was hopeful...but it was a surprise." The 11-member UA Board of Regents sets policy and oversees finances for the university system. "I think the University is going to be facing some difficult times," Nelson-Wright said, "and I think it's important that issues be handled with common sense and compassion for people."

Alaskan-born, Nelson-Wright is deeply involved in the University of Alaska. She has attended both UAS and UAA, and one of her step-daughters is enrolled at UAF. In addition, her husband is a UAS professor. "I think it is really important that Juneau is represented state-wide," she said.

She was elected the UAS-Juneau campus nominee in a February election and will begin her two-year term June 1.

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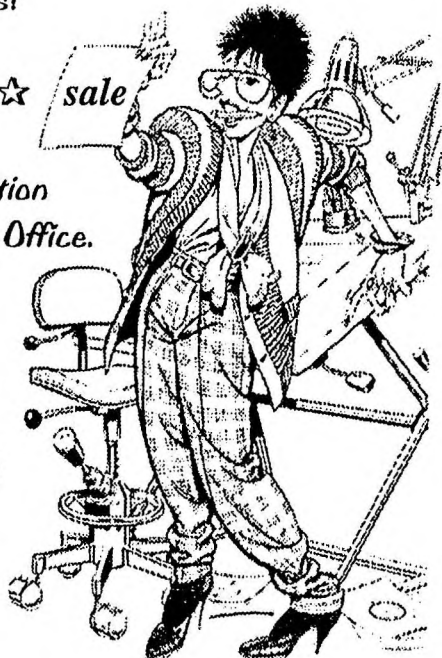
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